

## § 545.91

(d) The Regional Director may request additional information at any time regarding the operations of the service corporation if there are supervisory concerns about the activity, has evidence that the activity may not be in the best interest of the association or service corporation, or has questions as to whether the activities are being conducted in a manner that is preapproved.

[54 FR 49492, Nov. 30, 1989, as amended at 55 FR 13511, Apr. 11, 1990; 57 FR 14340, Apr. 20, 1992; 57 FR 33437, July 29, 1992; 57 FR 48949, Oct. 29, 1992; 57 FR 62474, Dec. 31, 1992; 59 FR 53570, Oct. 25, 1994; 60 FR 66717, Dec. 26, 1995; 61 FR 66570, Dec. 18, 1996]

### § 545.91 Home office.

All operations of a Federal savings association shall be subject to direction from the home office.

### § 545.92 Branch offices.

(a) *General.* A branch office of a Federal savings association is any office other than its home office, agency office, administrative office, data processing office, or an electronic means or facility under part 555 of this chapter.

(b) *Eligibility.* Federal savings associations eligible for expedited treatment pursuant to section 516.3(a) of this chapter may establish a branch office without prior approval subject to the procedures in paragraph (f) of this section. A Federal savings association subject to standard treatment as defined in § 516.3(b) of this chapter shall not establish a branch office without prior approval subject to the procedures in paragraph (e) of this section.

(c) *Application form; filing; completion; supervisory objection.* Applicants shall obtain application and notice forms and related instructions from the OTS.

(d) *Processing of applications/notices.* Processing of applications and notices shall be subject to the following procedures:

(1) *Publication.* (i) A federal savings association must publish a public notice of the branch application or notice in accordance with the procedures specified in subpart B of part 516 of this chapter.

(ii) Promptly after publication of the public notice, the savings association shall transmit copies of the public no-

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tice and publisher's affidavit of publication to the OTS.

(iii) The application or notice and all related communications may be inspected by any person at the Regional Office during regular business hours, unless such information is exempt from public disclosure.

(2) *Submission of application or notice.* A Federal savings association must comply with § 556.5 of this chapter and shall file the application required under § 516.3(b)(2) of this chapter or the notice required under § 516.3(a) of this chapter within three days after the publication of the public notice under paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(3) *Submission of comments.* Commenters may submit comments on the application or notice in accordance with the procedures specified in subpart C of part 516 of this chapter.

(4) *Meetings.* The OTS may arrange informal or formal meetings in accordance with the procedures specified in subpart D of part 516 of this chapter.

(e) *Approval of branch application.* (1) The OTS shall approve an application only if the overall policies, condition, and operation of the applicant afford no basis for supervisory objection and the proposed branch will open within twelve months of approval unless otherwise allowed by the OTS. In considering whether to approve an application, the OTS will assess and take into account an association's record of helping to meet the credit needs of its entire community, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, pursuant to part 563e of this chapter; assessment of an association's record of performance may be the basis for denying an application.

(2) An application shall be deemed to be approved 30 days after notification that the application is complete, unless the OTS suspends the applicable processing time frames under § 516.190 of this chapter, or the OTS objects to the application on the grounds set forth under paragraph (e)(1) of this section.

(f) *Approval of branch notice.* A notice filed by a Federal savings association that qualifies for expedited treatment shall be deemed to be approved 30 days after its filing with the OTS, unless the OTS suspends the applicable processing